

**Case 3093****NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, November 1882 (Insecta, Coleoptera): proposed precedence over CIMBERIDIDAE Gozis, March 1882, and *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881: proposed conservation of usage**

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**Abstract.** The purpose of this application, under Article 23.9.3 of the Code, is to conserve the usage of the weevil (CURCULIONOIDEA) family name NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, 1882 (November) by giving it precedence over the senior name CIMBERIDIDAE Gozis, 1882 (March). In addition, it is proposed that current usage of the generic name *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881 is conserved by validating Kuschel's (1959) designation of *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787 as its type species.

**Keywords.** Nomenclature; taxonomy; CURCULIONIDAE; NEMONYCHIDAE; CIMBERIDIDAE; *Cimberis*; *Nemonyx*; *Rhinomacer attelaboides*; *Rhinomacer lepturoides*.

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1. The generic name *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy, 1762 has been variously applied to species of two unrelated families of Coleoptera, causing grave confusion. Determining the correct application of *Rhinomacer* is a necessary prerequisite to dealing with the family-group names involved. The genus *Rhinomacer* was described by Geoffroy, 1762 (p. 269). He included eleven species that were described but, since the work was not binominal these were not given single specific names. In one case, he included a reference to a binomen, *Attelabus coryli* Linnaeus, 1758, but as he did not cite this name, the species is unavailable as type species. Gozis (1881, p. cxii) designated '*Rhinomacer violaceus* Scopoli (= *betuli* Fabricius)' as type species but, again, as neither name was cited by Geoffroy, they cannot be used. Geoffroy's work was suppressed for all nomenclatural purposes (Opinion 228, 1954) but, following a later examination of generic names (Kerzhner, 1991), *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy 1762 was placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology (Opinion 1754, 1994), being suppressed for priority but not for homonymy.

2. A use of *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy is to be found in Müller (1764, p. xiii), with no species included. Kerzhner (1991, p. 124) considered *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy in Müller to be available from this publication, but not with the type species designated by Gozis (1881, p. cxii), since neither name given by Gozis was included. Later, Müller

(1776, p. 90) included 15 available species by name. One of these, *Rhinomacer coryli* Müller, 1776 (a junior synonym of *Curculio nitens* Scopoli, 1763), was designated as type species by Silfverberg (1978, p. 118). Since *Curculio nitens* Scopoli is the valid name of the type species of *Attelabus* Linnaeus, 1758, *Rhinomacer* Müller, 1776 (not Geoffroy) is a subjective synonym of *Attelabus* Linnaeus, 1758. Kerzhner (1991, p. 124) believed this designation to be invalid, since *Rhinomacer coryli* Müller is not a nominal species but a misidentification of *Attelabus coryli* Linnaeus, 1758. However, taking this as a deliberate use of a misidentification under the Code (see Articles 69.2.4 and 70.4.2) Silfverberg's reasoning can be accepted. Müller (1776) made no reference to earlier uses of the name, and it cannot be assumed that he was referring to *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy. Even if he was, since *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy is suppressed for the Principle of Priority, it cannot take precedence over *Rhinomacer* Müller, although the latter name is preoccupied by *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy.

3. Fabricius (1781, p. 199) described a new genus *Rhinomacer*, including a single species, *Rhinomacer curculioides* Fabricius, 1781, which is the type species by monotypy. No reference was made to earlier uses of the name, and it cannot be assumed that he was referring to *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy or *Rhinomacer* Müller. Fabricius's genus is a junior homonym of *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy, 1762, and is currently a synonym of *Mycterus* Clairville, 1798 in the family MYCTERIDAE Blanchard, 1845.

4. Fabricius (1787, p. 123) added a second species to his genus *Rhinomacer*, namely *R. attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787. *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1787 is a redescription of *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1781. Fabricius subsequently (1801, p. 429) described a third species, *Rhinomacer lepturoides* Fabricius (now in *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845 (p. 96), where it is type species by monotypy on p. 152). A fourth species, *Rhinomacer varius* Fabricius (1798, p. 164) has not been mentioned by other authors, and is incertae sedis; it will not be mentioned again in this paper.

5. Olivier (1807, pp. 450, 457) placed *Rhinomacer curculioides* Fabricius (the type species of *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1781) in the genus *Mycterus*. He noted that the genus originally included only the mycterid, but that Fabricius had subsequently included two non-congeneric species (both are now recognised as NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, 1882 (p. 3). Olivier chose to use the name *Rhinomacer* (Olivier, 1807, p. 459) exclusively for the two nemonychid species *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787 (p. 123) and *Rhinomacer lepturoides* Fabricius, 1801 (p. 429). Olivier thus misidentified Fabricius's genus, since there is no clear evidence that he was creating a new genus.

6. In 1823 (col. 1136), Schoenherr designated the nominal species *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787 as the type species for '*Rhinomacer* Fabr. Oliv.'. He also created the family name RHINOMACERIDES, used by later authors for a genus *Rhinomacer* including *R. attelaboides* but not *R. curculioides*. It is evident that Schoenherr was using Olivier's concept of the genus, not that of Fabricius. Shuckard (1840, p. 53) used 'RHINOMACERIDAE Shuck.' for *Rhinomacer* Fabricius (containing *attelaboides*). Schoenherr's use was followed by Thomson (1859, p. 127), who changed the family name ending to RHINOMACERINA, cited Geoffroy as author of the genus, and stated the type species to be *R. attelaboides*. The family name RHINOMACERIDES Schoenherr, 1823 is unavailable, being based on a misidentified type genus.

7. In a general discussion of the different genera named *Rhinomacer* and of Fabricius's muddling nomenclatural procedures, Gozis (1881, p. cxii) proposed the new generic name *Cimberis* to replace *Rhinomacer* of Fabricius, 1787, not mentioning Olivier. No species is strictly mentioned in his treatment in connection with *Cimberis*, although he noted Fabricius's (1787) inclusion of *R. attelaboides* in *Rhinomacer*. *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1787 is nomenclaturally identical with *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1781. Therefore, *Cimberis* is a junior synonym of *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1781 and should be included in the synonymy of *Mycteris* Clairville, 1798 in MYCTERIDAE as an unnecessary replacement name. However, it has never been used in this sense, always being considered a member of the CIMBERIDIDAE or NEMONYCHIDAE.

8. The family name CIMBERIDAE (correctly CIMBERIDIDAE; see Kuschel, 1959) was proposed by Gozis (1882, p. 58) as a replacement name for RHINOMACERIDAE of authors. Strictly speaking, this name is a synonym of MYCTERIDAE Blanchard, 1845. However, it has been used in CURCULIONOIDEA either as a subfamily of NEMONYCHIDAE or as a family of its own, usually wrongly attributed to Bradley (1930, p. 261), which is just a later use.

9. The family-group name RHINOMACERINI continued to be used for a group including *Nemonyx* (e.g. Voss, 1931, p. 162), and *Rhinomacer* for a genus including *attelaboides* (e.g. Voss, 1932, p. 12). Anderson (1947, p. 515), followed by Hatch (1971, p. 335), correctly pointed out that *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1781 was a pythid (mycterid), but incorrectly retained *Cimberis* and CIMBERIDAE.

10. O'Brien & Wibmer (1982, p. 18) correctly identified *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881 as a pythid (presently MYCTERIDAE), following the logic expressed in paragraph 6 above. O'Brien & Wibmer (1982, p. 18) proposed the new name *Neocimberis* as a replacement name for the concept of *Cimberis* sensu auctt. in NEMONYCHIDAE and designated as type species *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787. However, *Neocimberis* is unavailable since, although replacement names can be proposed for available homonymic names, misidentified genera must be described as new and satisfy the provisions of Article 13 of the Code. *Cimberis* auctt. is a misidentification, and *Neocimberis* O'Brien & Wibmer lacks a description (Article 13.1.1) or a reference to such (Article 13.1.2). O'Brien & Wibmer (1982, p. 18) replaced CIMBERINI and RHINOMACERINI with the new name NEOCIMBERINI. This is also unavailable, since its type genus is unavailable.

11. Kuschel (1959, p. 234) cited as type species for *Cimberis* Gozis the nominal species *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787. Later, he (1989, pp. 132–133) suggested that (1) *Rhinomacer* Olivier, 1807 was, as a deliberate change from Fabricius's concept, nomenclaturally distinct, and applicable only to nemonychid weevils; (2) *Cimberis* Gozis had been proposed specifically and only for *Rhinomacer attelaboides*. Kuschel (1989) concludes: 'as a result, the author of *Rhinomacer* auctorum, or of authors, or of Fabricius, 1787 is a matter of course Olivier (1807). The name *Cimberis* is legitimate and valid for the nemonychid genus because it was proposed to replace *Rhinomacer* 'Fabricius 1787', which equals 'of authors', which equals Olivier, 1807, and because of a direct reference to *R. attelaboides* Fabricius.' This conclusion contravenes the Code dispositions, as shown above.

12. As shown in the previous paragraphs, *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787, a member of NEMONYCHIDAE or CIMBERIDIDAE, is not included in any valid genus. Despite O'Brien & Wibmer's actions, the genus name used almost exclusively since

Gozis (1881) is *Cimberis* and changing this situation would be against the stability of nomenclature. *Cimberis* has never been related to PYTHIDAE (MYCTERIDAE) other than in O'Brien & Wibmer (1982).

13. The family name CIMBERIDIDAE Gozis, 1882 was published on the 1st March while NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, 1882 was published in November (to be dated on the 30th). If our proposal to conserve *Cimberis* Gozis in its current sense is accepted, CIMBERIDIDAE would have precedence over NEMONYCHIDAE. This procedure would upset the current nomenclature and so we propose that NEMONYCHIDAE should be given precedence over CIMBERIDIDAE. The family has been revised worldwide by Kuschel (1954, 1959, 1989, 1993, 1994) and he has used the name NEMONYCHIDAE.

14. The International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature is accordingly asked:

- (1) to use its plenary power:
  - (a) to rule that the family-group name NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, 1882 (November) and other family-group names based on *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845 are to be given precedence over CIMBERIDIDAE Gozis, 1882 (March) and other family-group names based on *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
  - (b) to set aside all previous fixations of type species for the nominal genus *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881 prior to the designation made by Kuschel (1959) of *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787;
- (2) to place on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881 (gender: feminine), type species by subsequent designation by Kuschel (1959) *Rhinomacer attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787;
  - (b) *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Rhinomacer lepturoides* Fabricius, 1801;
- (3) to place on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) *attelaboides* Fabricius, 1787, as published in the binomen *Rhinomacer attelaboides* (specific name of the type species of *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881);
  - (b) *lepturoides* Fabricius, 1801, as published in the binomen *Rhinomacer lepturoides* (specific name of the type species of *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845);
- (4) to place on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
  - (a) CIMBERIDIDAE Gozis, 1882, type genus *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881, with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Cimberis* are not to be given priority over NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, 1882 and other family-group names based on *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
  - (b) NEMONYCHIDAE Bedel, 1882, type genus *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845, with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Nemonyx* Redtenbacher, 1845 are to be given precedence over CIMBERIDIDAE Gozis, 1882 and other family-group names based on *Cimberis* Gozis, 1881 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;
- (5) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology the following names:

- (a) *Rhinomacer* Fabricius, 1781 (a junior homonym of *Rhinomacer* Geoffroy, 1762);
- (b) *Neocimberis* O'Brien & Wibmer, 1982 (a nomen nudum);
- (6) to place on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology the following names:
- (a) RHINOMACERIDES Schoenherr, 1823 (based on a misidentified type genus);
- (b) CIMBERIDAE Gozis, 1882 (an original incorrect spelling for CIMBERIDIDAE).

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